



February 11, 2005

## **Johnston man admits forging checks totaling \$375,249**

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### **Ogden Mills Fell was a bookkeeper for an electric motor company**

**Ogden Mills Fell**, of Johnston, has pleaded guilty to federal bank fraud and tax charges, admitting that he forged \$375,249 in checks written against Safe-Way Electric Motor Company, where he was a bookkeeper. He also admitted filing false income tax returns.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty plea, which Fell entered today before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres in U.S. District Court, Providence. Fell, 54, of 7 Primrose Lane, pleaded guilty to a three-count information that was filed last month.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew J. Reich said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that, between December 2000 and July 2003, Fell defrauded Domestic Bank and Citizens Bank by cashing at those banks \$375,249 in forged checks drawn against the accounts of Safe-Way Electric Motor Company, Inc. Fell accomplished this by forging the signature of one of the company's principals on checks made payable to petty cash. From 1996 until August 3003, Fell was a bookkeeper at Safe-Way, a Providence-based, family-owned business that refurbishes electric motors.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Reich said the government also had evidence that Fell filed false individual federal income tax returns for the tax years 2002 and 2003 by understating his income. For 2002, he failed to report \$175,461.50 in illegal income that he obtained through the forged

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checks and, for 2003, he failed to report \$190,288 in illegal income. The government's total tax loss resulting from the false returns was \$102,409.86.

Fell pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud and two counts of filing false tax returns. The statutory maximum penalty for bank fraud is 30 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine. The maximum penalty for filing a false tax return is three years imprisonment and a \$100,000 fine. Fell is free on unsecured bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for May 13.

The **Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations**, the **Federal Bureau of Investigations**, and the **U.S. Department of Labor** participated in the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Reich is prosecuting the case.

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Contact: 401-709-5032

[Thomas.connell@usdoj.gov](mailto:Thomas.connell@usdoj.gov)